

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 00302 140037Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-11 H-01 INR-07 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07
SP-02 SS-15 STR-06 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 /115 W
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P R 130838Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8678
DOE WASHDC PRIORITY
DOE GERMANTOWN PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 0302

DEPT FOR OES/NET/RD V. ADLER
DOE WASHDC FOR R. WILLIT
TOKYO FOR J. BLOOM AND W. HENoch

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENRG, EMIN, TECH, KS
SUBJECT: MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND RESOURCES (MER) ORGANIZATION
AND INITIAL INITIATIVES

REF: 77 SEOUL 10731

1. MER MINISTER CHANG YE-CHUN HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN BRINGING
YOUTHFUL PEOPLE OF RECOGNIZED ACCOMPLISHMENT AND COMPETENCE
INTO POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP IN HIS ORGANIZATION, OVER HALF
FORMERLY WORKED FOR CHANG WHEN HE HEADED MINISTRY OF COMMERCE
AND INDUSTRY (MCI), REFTel. IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT HE COULD
NOT SUCCESSFULLY RECRUIT MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
(MOST) PERSONNEL OF SIMILAR CALIBER. VETERAN MOST MINISTER
CHOE HYONG-SOP IS KNOWN FOR ABILITY TO ENGENDER PERSONAL LOYALTY
AND LOWER LEVEL PERSONNEL WHICH HAVE TRANSFERRED FROM MOST TO
MER HAVE DONE SO WITH HIS BLESSING. A FEW HIGHER LEVEL MOST
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PERSONNEL FEEL THEY HAVE REGRETABLY MISSED AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR ADVANCEMENT.

2. MER'S ACTIVITIES ARE DISTRIBUTED AMONG FIVE BUREAUS
AND A BUREAU-LEVEL REGISTRY OF MINES. IN ADDITION MER
IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SEMI-AUTONOMOUS KOREA RESEARCH
INSTITUTE OF GEOSCIENCE AND MINERAL RESOURCES (KIGAM)

PRESENTLY HEADED BY HYON PYONG-KU. FORMERLY, MOST WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR KIGAM.

3. NOTED BELOW ARE THE PRESENT AND FORMER POSITIONS OF MER OFFICIALS (INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCE FOR SPELLING OF NAME IN PARENTHESIS) FOR LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY DOWN TO BUREAU DIRECTOR.

NAME	MER POSITION	FORMER POSITION
CHANG YE-CHUN (CHANG YIE-JOON)	MINISTER	MCI MINISTER
Y KAK-CHONG (YU KAK-CHONG)	VICE MINISTER MCI	ASST. MINISTER FOR LIGHT INDUSTRY
YI PONG-SO (LEE BONG-SUH)	ASST. MINISTER FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT	OFFICE OF PRIME MINISTER (MACRO- ECONOMICS)
KIM YOUN-HYUNG	DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF PROJECT PLANNING	SENIOR ECONOMIST KOREA DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
KIM HUI-SUL CONFIDENTIAL	DIRECTOR, BUREAU	CHIEF, OIL

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OF PETROLEUM
MCI

REFINERY SECT.

KUM CHIN-HO	DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ELECTRICITY	DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT, MCI
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YUN SOK-KU	DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT	COMPLAINT ADJU- DICATION OFFICER, OFFICE OF PATENTS
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KIM YONG-SIK	HEAD, REGISTRY OF MINES MCI	HEAD, OFFICE OF MINE REGISTRATION
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4. MER'S PRESENCE IS BEING FELT BY MCI AND THE ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD IN A NUMBER OF WAYS. THE MOST OUTSTANDING TO DATE IS MER PRESSURE FOR INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF OIL DERIVATIVES. ON DECEMBER 18, WHEN CHANG WAS MCI MINISTER, THE PRICE OF HOUSEHOLD COAL WAS INCREASED 33 PER CENT. IN FUTURE, HE IS EXPECTED TO SEEK ELECTRICITY PRICE INCREASES FOR INDUSTRIAL USERS. CONSEQUENTLY, MCI

AND THE ECONOMIC PLANNING BOARD ARE CONCERNED ABOUT EFFECTS
INCREASED ENERGY COST WILL HAVE ON COMMODITY PRICE
STABILIZATION PLANS AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS
OF KOREAN EXPORTS.
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